

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 31 (cancelled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method for cooling objects comprising:

- a) cooling a stream of gaseous fluid, wherein said cooling further comprises:
 - 1) confining said stream;
 - 2) slowing the flow rate of said fluid by increasing the cross section of said stream;
 - 3) spraying liquid nitrogen into said stream to cool said fluid; and
 - 4) diverting at least a portion of the cooled fluid and allowing said diverted portion to exit said confinement; and
- b) applying said diverted portion of said fluid directly to said objects thereby cooling them.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein said objects comprise foodstuffs.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein said foodstuffs comprise chocolate.

Claim 35 (previously amended): The method of claim 32, further comprising diverting said portion of said fluid only after said liquid nitrogen has completely vaporized in said stream.

Claim 36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein said gaseous fluid comprises air.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the temperature of said diverted fluid is about -150°C to about -196°C .

Claims 39-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (previously presented): An apparatus which may be used for cooling a stream of gaseous fluid comprising:

- a) a mixing pipe through which said stream passes;
- b) at least one impact surface located inside said mixing pipe;
- c) a means for spraying liquid nitrogen into said mixing pipe, and
- d) an injection pipe for injecting said fluid into said mixing pipe, wherein said mixing pipe has a cross-section larger than that of impact surface and said spraying means, and
- e) a regulation loop for regulating the outlet temperature of said gaseous fluid leaving said cooling device to a preset temperature, said regulation loop comprising:
 - i) a means for measuring said outlet temperature;
 - ii) a means for adjusting the flow rate of nitrogen supplied to said spraying means, and
 - iii) an actuator, wherein said actuator receives a signal from said measuring means and actuates said adjusting means.

Claims 53-54 (canceled)